



# OUR TOWN

A Newsletter of the Town Of Hilton Head Island

Brought to you by the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

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MAYOR JOHN J. MCCANN

## Mayor’s Update

taken into consideration. Because of this, the Town should look at supporting all of these issues when possible as well as identifying opportunities for cost-effective housing.

One way that the Town has gone about supporting the broader needs of the Island workforce is through its support of the Children’s Center. Located at 8 Natures Way near the Jarvis Creek Park, the Children’s Center is a not-for-profit organization on the Island that offers a sliding-fee scale structure so that Island workers of all income levels can ensure that their family has access to quality early childhood education and childcare



services. Nearly 80% of the families participating in the Center receive some level of tuition assistance. Each child at the Center receives breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack to feed their bodies. More importantly, they receive educational building blocks built on a foundation of love at a critical developmental time in a child’s life. I am proud of the Town’s history in supporting this organization over the last 50 years that it has been in service to the community, and I look forward to helping ensure their continued success well into the future.

Providing effective workforce housing on the Island means a lot more than just finding a place for someone, who happens to work on the Island, to live. It also means making sure that all their other needs are met to create a quality of life that make them want to live and work here. The great folks at the Children’s Center help to do that by ensuring that our Island’s workforce has a quality, affordable place to ensure that their children are being well cared for while their parents go about meeting the needs of our community.



TOWN MANAGER STEVE RILEY

## Town Manager’s Update

they all have one thing in common - everyone is a pedestrian. Whether you are walking or running on the pathways or crossing William Hilton Parkway, you should follow the rules and practice safe behaviors. More than 5,000 pedestrians are killed and 85,000 pedestrians are injured each year in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. We have seen occurrences of both in our community, so we are taking steps to enhance safety for pedestrians. We’ve recently added pedestrian crossing marks and warning signs at intersections on William Hilton Parkway. They provide visual clues to alert drivers and pedestrians. On pages 2 and 3, we share helpful tips for pedestrians and drivers.

### BICYCLE SAFETY

Biking is a great way to get around the Island and keep healthy. As a bicycle friendly community, we advocate for bicycle safety. Remember, bikes have to follow the same signs and rules as cars. Please visit our website to watch our bicycle safety video and learn how to avoid collisions and injuries.

### PATHWAY SAFETY

The Town provides 64 miles of public pathways and nature trails for pedestrians and cyclists to enjoy. Our



regulations help ensure they are safe for everyone’s use. The most violated regulation pertains to motorized vehicles. Too often we see cars and golf carts traveling on pathways. Not only is this dangerous, but it is prohibited.

The following are not permitted on pathways: cars, trucks, tractors, or any other motorized vehicles; motorcycles, motor-assisted bicycles such as mopeds, motor scooters, golf carts, lawn mowers, all-terrain vehicles, go-carts, or any other similar, small motorized vehicles; horses or any other large animals; and surreys and other types of carriages. Emergency vehicles, authorized maintenance vehicles, or electric-powered wheelchairs for the handicapped; and small pets such as dogs and cats on a leash are allowed on the pathways.

Let’s all take responsibility for road and pathway safety in our community.

Spring and summer on Hilton Head Island are synonymous with bike safety, pedestrian safety, driver safety, beach safety and more. Speaking of bike safety, we’re excited to be among 34 communities across the United States to receive the Gold Level Bicycle Friendly Community award this May from the League of American Bicyclists. This is our second time earning this designation, which is valid for four years and recognizes our community’s efforts to promote bicycling as a safe, comfortable and convenient option for transportation and recreation. As a community where residents and visitors enjoy our beaches, pathways and other amenities, we always keep safety foremost in our minds.

### PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

While people’s preferences in the types of transportation they use differ,



# New Crosswalks and Lighting to Enhance Pedestrian Safety



Many people walk or run across our streets every day. The majority of times, these pedestrians cross without incident.

But not all pedestrians are so fortunate. Last year, in the United States, 6,227 pedestrians died while crossing streets, according to the Governor’s Highway Safety Association’s report, “Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State: 2018 Preliminary Data.” On Hilton Head Island, three pedestrians lost their lives in 2018. In light of these tragic incidents and recent concerns raised by local citizens, the Town of Hilton Head Island is making enhancements to help keep pedestrians safe as they cross our streets.

“We want our residents and citizens to be safe as they cross the highway, so we have made improvements that we hope drivers, pedestrians and cyclists will heed,” said Scott Liggett, Director of Public Projects and Facilities. “Another important part of pedestrian safety is simply being aware of your surroundings. Drivers need to be aware of pedestrians and rules of the road. Likewise, pedestrians and bicyclists need to watch out for vehicles. When it comes down to it, road safety is a two-way street.”

Town staff identified 11 unsignalized crosswalk locations along William Hilton Parkway (U.S. 278 Bus.) and made the following enhancements:

- Marked pavement with permanent text, “PED” and “XING,” preceding the crosswalks. PED stands for pedestrians and XING for crossing.
- Placed dual walking man pedestrian crossing signs at crosswalks.
- Installed reflective strips on the sign posts and the tops of concrete curbing, where there is a median refuge, for greater night time awareness.

Along with those enhancements, Town staff is implementing a pilot street lighting project at the crosswalk at the intersection of William Hilton Parkway and Yacht Cove Drive. This follows the tragic accident that claimed the life of 11-year-old Charli Bobinchuck at this intersection last year. The lighting project includes installing seven overhead street light poles at the intersection this summer. The street lights will comply with lighting standards set by the S.C. Department of Transportation and the International Dark Sky Association. The light fixtures will be flat, low-profile lamps with LED bulbs and the poles will be made of dark brown fiberglass composite material.

“Our staff will monitor this project and is prepared to replicate it at other crosswalks across the Island,” Liggett said.

## Unsignalized crosswalks on William Hilton Parkway (U.S. 278 Bus.)



- Fresh Market Shoppes near Legendary Golf’s Miniature Putt Putt Course
- Regency Drive near Red Roof Inn and Stack’s Pancakes
- Yacht Cove Drive
- Chamber of Commerce Drive
- Shelter Cove Plaza near Whole Foods\*
- Shelter Cove Lane near the Beaufort County Sheriff’s Office\*
- Burkes Beach Road near Sherwin-Williams
- Northridge Drive near Stein Mart and Sunoco
- Palmetto Parkway near Station One and The Oaks
- Central Avenue near Festival Centre at Indigo Park and Walmart
- Old Wild Horse Road near Old School House Park

\*This winter, two of the 11 crosswalk locations will be modified as signalized crosswalks as part of the U.S. 278 Shelter Cove Area Transportation Project.

## Rules to Follow at Our Crosswalks

When using pedestrian crosswalks, there are several South Carolina laws you have to obey. Please follow the laws. They’ll help keep you and others safe.

- When traffic-control signals are not in place or not operating, the driver of a vehicle must slow down or stop and yield to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk - if the pedestrian is in the roadway that the vehicle is travelling or if the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.
- Pedestrians should not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path



of an approaching vehicle close enough to cause an accident. Do not step into the roadway until it is safe to do so.

- Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear should not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

# Intentions of courteous drivers may be dangerous



It is somewhat common on Hilton Head Island to see drivers - as a gesture of kindness - suddenly stop at unsignalized crosswalks and wave waiting pedestrians into the roadway. Although these drivers are trying to be courteous, they may put the pedestrians, themselves and other motorists in danger or cause an accident, said Jeff Buckalew, Town Engineer. Buckalew said there is also the potential for other drivers not expecting this to pass or rear end the stopped vehicle, creating a dangerous situation for the pedestrian and stopped vehicle. “With Hilton Head Island having so many new and part-time residents, and out of town visitors who are not familiar with South Carolina traffic laws, it is very important for pedestrians and bicyclists to use extra caution and patience at crosswalks,” he said. They should always watch and wait for an adequate gap in traffic to safely cross at an unsignalized crosswalk.

Accidents may also occur when drivers attempt to make left hand turns across two lanes. If you’re in this predicament and another motorist waves you onto the roadway, you’ll be held liable if a crash occurs, according to Lance Corporal Matt Southern, a community relations officer with the S.C. Highway Patrol. Rather than crossing the highway, it is best to wait. Motorists must yield the right of way to traffic that is already traveling on the roadway, Southern said.

## Simple Steps for Drivers and Pedestrians to Follow

There are simple steps everyone can take to help reduce the number of traffic-related tragedies. Here are some tips from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

### FOR DRIVERS:

- Look for pedestrians everywhere. Pedestrians may not be walking where they should be or may be hard to see—especially at night, in poorly lit conditions, including dusk/dawn/night and in poor weather.
- Follow your pedestrian safety laws in your state or local area—always stop or yield for pedestrians in the crosswalk where pedestrian crosswalk signs are posted, and when the crosswalk signal is on.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. They may be stopped to allow pedestrians to cross the street.
- Slow down and look for pedestrians. Be prepared to stop when turning left or right, or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Follow the posted speed limit; slow down around pedestrians.
- Stay focused and slow down where children may be present, like in school zones and neighborhoods.

### FOR PEDESTRIANS:

- Walk on a sidewalk or path when one is available.
- If no sidewalk or path is available, walk on the shoulder, facing traffic.
- Stay alert; don’t be distracted by electronic devices, including smart phones, and other devices that take your eyes (and ears) off the road.
- Be cautious night and day when sharing the road with vehicles, even if you have the right of way.
- Never assume a driver sees you (he or she could be distracted, under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, or just not see you). Make eye contact with drivers as they approach or watch for them slowing down. When in doubt, wait until traffic passes.
- Be predictable. Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections when possible. This is where drivers expect pedestrians.
- If a crosswalk or intersection is not available, locate a well-lit area, wait for a gap in traffic that allows you enough time to cross safely, and continue to watch for traffic as you cross.
- Be visible. Wear bright clothing during the day, and wear reflective materials (especially on arms, legs and feet) or use a flashlight at night.
- Avoid walking around traffic after drinking alcohol or using drugs; they impair your judgment and coordination. Plan for friends to help you get home safely.

## It’s Trolley Time Again

While our trademark coastal breezes blow year round, The Breeze, Hilton Head Island’s public trolley service, is only seasonal. So, it’s no wonder many Town residents and guests were excited to see the big grey and green trolleys traveling our roads again.

The Breeze launched in July 2018 with two new nostalgic trolleys, and safely served thousands of passengers in just a few months, for just \$1 a trip. We believe the 2019 season is going to be even better, especially with new enhancements including:

- **An additional trolley vehicle**, complete with wooden interiors and seating that match the classic style of the existing trolleys.
- **A revised route with new stops** at the Village at Wexford and the Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort, joining existing stops at Coligny Beach Park/Coligny Plaza, the resort areas of South Forest Beach, Park Plaza, Shelter Cove Harbour & Marina, and Shelter Cove Towne Center.
- **Updated service times.** Trolleys start at 1 p.m. daily, with service until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

**Be sure to “Catch The Breeze” between now and October 15.** It’s a great way to help reduce congestion along our busiest corridors and enhance the Island experience for everyone. Visit [www.breezetrolley.com](http://www.breezetrolley.com) for complete details. For the service on social media: @BreezeTrolley.





# Around Town



## Insurance Service Office upgrades public protection rating for Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue

The Town of Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue recently received the Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of Class 2, up from a Class 3. The new Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating became effective March 1, 2019, and is a result of the Town’s continued commitment to provide quality services to its citizens and visitors.

ISO currently evaluates over 40,000 fire departments nationwide with nearly 1,600 earning the Class 2 rating. The ISO Schedule develops a PPC number on a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being the very best and 10 representing less than minimum recognized fire protection. ISO publishes the rating, which may be used by insurance companies to determine insurance rates.

In general, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC. Fire Rescue suggests that both home and business owners contact their insurance agents to inquire about a reduction of their annual premium based on the upgrade to a Class 2 PPC rating.

## Consultant Presents Workforce Housing Recommendations

What can be done about workforce housing on Hilton Head Island? Our housing consultant, Lisa Sturtevant, shared eight recommendations in the Workforce Housing Strategic Plan for the Town to consider:

- Establish a public-private local workforce housing trust fund.
- Create a commercial reuse policy.
- Make Town-owned land available.
- Establish a density bonus program.
- Expand employer-assisted housing programs.
- Offer property tax and impact free rebates.
- Partner on a home linking/home sharing program.
- Making rental projects more competitive for low-income housing tax credits.

These suggested solutions are likely to have the biggest impact on the production and preservation of workforce housing on the Island, according to Sturtevant, who presented the recommendations last month. They are designed to address current and future workforce housing needs in the Town. Employers, residents, housing developers and members the Town’s Public Planning Committee provided input to Sturtevant and her team during a seven-month process.

The Public Planning Committee will further review the strategies before making a recommendation about the plan to Town Council. The plan is available on the Town’s website for review.



## U.S. 278 Corridor Improvements: What is NEPA and where are we in this process?

Identifying the potential environmental and social impacts is a critical part of the South Carolina Department of Transportation’s (SCDOT) U.S. 278 Corridor Improvements project. This project is assessing the replacement of the eastbound Mackay Creek Bridge between Bluffton and Hilton Head Island and additional improvements between Moss Creek Drive and Squire Pope Road.

This project is currently in the planning phase that encompasses the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA provides a process for environmental planning and decision-making relative to environmental impacts, and is required when projects use federal funds or obtain federal permits to understand the potential impacts on the natural and human environments.

Working alongside the Federal Highway Administration and Beaufort County, SCDOT will follow the NEPA process to develop an “Environmental Assessment” (EA) document for the U.S. 278 Corridor Improvements Project. The EA and subsequent “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI) document must be completed before project right-of-way acquisition and construction may begin. These documents include evaluation of proposed alternatives, analysis of environmental impacts associated with the proposed project, and summaries of public and agency outreach efforts and the input generated from those efforts.

As the NEPA process continues, the Town’s U.S. 278 Gateway Corridor Committee is working to evaluate potential impacts and discuss options that may be added to the evaluation of project alternatives. Representatives from SCDOT and the Town’s U.S. 278 Gateway Corridor Committee are available to present to your community or neighborhood association about the project.

### LET US KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS

Please help SCDOT understand the issues in your community by completing the Community Impact Survey. Your answers will help the project team better understand the concerns in your neighborhood and allow SCDOT to determine how the project may affect your community. The survey is available on the project website: **www.scdot278corridor.com**.

### STAY CONNECTED

- **Email:** info@scdot278corridor.com
- **Facebook:** scdot278improvements
- **Twitter:** @scdot278
- **Notices:** Sign up at hiltonheadislandsc.gov for notification of the Town’s 278 committee meetings.



## Meet Glenn Stanford

### Hilton Head Island’s Newest Town Council Member

Glenn Stanford, the new Ward 6 councilman, is no stranger to Town government.

Stanford has served on the Town’s Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission, but felt he could do more as a councilman. “I love Hilton Head Island and the Lowcountry, and I wanted to continue serving our community more as a member of the Town Council, where I believe the main focus should be on the needs of Island residents,” said Stanford, who began visiting the Island with his family when he was a teenager. His love for the Island brought him here permanently in 2006.

For a brief period, Stanford worked as a consultant to the Beaufort County Rural & Critical Lands program, a role that helped him learn the geography of the County. Following his stint as a consultant, he became a full-time volunteer and got involved with local government.

**FAMILY:** Cyndy Stanford, wife of 50+ years; 2 children, Cliff & Wendy; 2 grandchildren

**YEARS ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND:** 13

**HOBBIES:** Golf, cooking, gardening, wood working.

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor of Business Administration, University of Georgia; Doctor of Law, Emory University.

**CAREER:** Small Business Lawyer; 40 years in private law practice in Atlanta, Georgia.

**CIVIC INVOLVEMENT:** Greater Island Council, Rotary Club of Hilton Head Island, YMCA of Metro Atlanta

**FAVORITE SPOT ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND:** Our home and wherever I can see the water and the marsh.

**FAVORITE INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE:** “You get back from life directly as much as you put into it.”